

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON TUESDAY, 29 JANUARY 2013 AT 3.00PM

Present:

Councillor M Thomas - Mayor and Chairperson

Councillors

S Aspey
M W Butcher
N Clarke
H J David
G Davies
G W Davies MBE
P A Davies
E Dodd
D K Edwards
E P Foley
M D Francis

Councillors

C A Green
M Gregory
D M Hughes
E M Hughes
C J James
P James
R M James
R D Jenkins
B Jones
C Jones
C L Jones

Councillors

M Jones
D R W Lewis
J R McCarthy
H E Morgan
L C Morgan
M E J Nott OBE
D G Owen
D R Pugh
C Rees
C L Reeves
M Reeves

Councillors

J C Spanswick
G Thomas
R L Thomas
J H Tildesley MBE
E Venables
K J Watts
D B F White
P J White
H M Williams
R Williams
M Winter

Officers:

D Mepham - Chief Executive
P A Jolley - Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer
N Young - Assistant Chief Executive - Performance and Section 151 Officer
H Anthony - Corporate Director - Children
S Brindle - Corporate Director - Wellbeing
L Fradd - Corporate Director - Communities
D Llewellyn - Group Manager - Development
S Jones - Development Planning Manager
J Jenkins - Financial Assessments Manager
G Jones - Head of Democratic Services (Electronic Back-up)
A Rees - Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees

109 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED: (1) That the minutes of the meeting of Council of 12 December 2012 be approved as a true and accurate record.

(2) That the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Council of 9 January 2013 be approved as a true and accurate record, subject to the addition of a declaration of interest in minute number 106 in that Councillor M Butcher declared a personal interest as the Chair of Governors of Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger and a prejudicial interest as her son in law is employed by the Council and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item on Job Evaluation Update to minute number 106.

110 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members for the reasons so stated:-

Councillor P John - Unwell
Councillor A D Owen - Work commitments
Councillor G Phillips - Work commitments
Councillor D Sage - Family commitments
Councillor H Townsend - Unwell

Councillor C Westwood - Operation

111 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

112 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred to the special event which she had attended on 25 January 2013 in the Council Chamber to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, which, each year was marked by the Council alongside its partners with a ceremony of commemoration to remember victims, honour survivors and commit to tackling prejudice, discrimination and racism in the present day. The Mayor announced that she was honoured to be present and to light the candle of remembrance which burnt throughout the ceremony. She thanked the local young people, from the Bridgend Youth Theatre, Bridgend Youth Choir and the Council's Music Service who played a significant role and did so with such maturity and sensitivity. The Mayor also thanked the special guest speaker, Bridgend born Mr Andrew White, Director of Stonewall Cymru, the all Wales Lesbian, Gay and Bi-sexual Charity whose aim was to achieve equality for lesbian, gay and bi-sexual people at home, at school and at work. As well as speaking about homophobia and post-war discrimination, Mr White spoke movingly about his own experiences growing up in Bridgend. The Member thanked all involved in organising this important annual event.

The Mayor announced that she would shortly be judging the nominations for this year's Mayor's Citizenship Awards and she thanked those who had taken the time to submit a nomination for someone who deserved recognition for being an outstanding Member of their community. The Mayor stated that she was fortunate in her role to meet and hear about some amazing individuals who, whether through voluntary or charity work, personal achievement or an act of bravery made a real difference in their communities. Each year, the Mayor's Citizenship Awards presented an opportunity to inform the rest of the County Borough about the amazing things people do and she looked forward to reading their stories and meeting the winners of this year's awards in March.

The Mayor informed Council that she was delighted to welcome pupils from Llangewydd School who had spent a day at the Council. Twenty five pupils spent the morning in the Council Chamber taking part in an official debate about local parks and green services spaces. The pupils had since published information on their school website to give an account of the day and had found the experience valuable and enjoyed the opportunity to debate a topical issue that was important to them. The Mayor thanked all those involved in arranging and attending the event, which also featured in the latest edition of Bridgemembers.

The Mayor announced that she had the pleasure of welcoming two very young and talented violinists, Macy Wallace and Rhianwen Keirl who were accompanied by Mr Jeff Ryan to visit and play in the Mayor's Parlour. The two young violinists had been accepted to play in the Great Britain National Youth Orchestra and were required to attend rehearsals taking place at various locations in the United Kingdom.

The Mayor announced that the latest edition of Bridgemembers had been given to all Members which contained important news for Members and their constituents. She stated that suggestions for future editions and feedback was welcomed and should be sent to the Communications Team, via Bridgend.

The Mayor also thanked staff, particularly in Highways and carers for their efforts in helping the Council maintain its essential services during the recent snow.

113 CABINET MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Cabinet Member - Resources

The Cabinet Member - Resources informed Members that the Police Commissioner had been invited to attend a pre Council briefing to take place on 3 April 2013.

2. Deputy Leader

The Cabinet Member - Communities announced on behalf of the Deputy Leader in relation to the Pub is the Hub Heritage interpretation project at the Prince of Wales Pub Kenfig which he had attended on 15 January 2013. The event had been organised by REACH, the Council's Rural Development Team and the Pub is the Hub, is a not for profit organisation which recognises the important role that pubs can play as centres for community life. Using digital technology, a series of six short films starring actor Owen Teale and members of the community had been made which look at various aspects of the history of the pub and local area. Visitors would be able watch the films by using a special kiosk that had been installed inside the pub as well as being able to download a mobile phone application. The kiosk and the app also provides details about the history of the pub and surrounding area, other useful website and where to find further information.

The Cabinet Member - Communities stated that the Deputy Leader in speaking at the launch had highlighted the interesting history of the Prince of Wales pub which covered several hundred years and was closely entwined with that of the local community and it was entirely appropriate that it should become the first local venue to benefit from this scheme. The Project will play an important role and help safeguard the rich history of the Prince of Wales pub and local area and add to the fantastic offer for tourists. The Cabinet Member - Communities stated that further information on the project can be obtained from Ieuan Sherwood, Tourism and Countryside Manager.

114 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chief Executive placed on record his thanks to the Council's employees who had reported for work during the recent severe weather to ensure the Council's vital services remained operational. He stated that the Council's staff undertook their duties diligently and highlighted examples of care staff changing their usual work patterns and arrangements in order to ensure continuing care for vulnerable people. He also thanked staff who had come in from leave to cover services and staff who had attended their nearest work place in order to carry out their duties. He also thanked the ICT service for ensuring that the Council's essential networks were kept open, despite a high demand on services. He thanked the gritting teams for keeping the highway network open and also thanked the horse wardens who had assisted the gritting and meals on wheel teams.

The Chief Executive thanked Members for their very active roles in their communities during the recent severe weather. He commented on how well the organisation worked during these times and on the resilience of the organisation.

115 ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

The Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer informed Council that he had been notified by the Independent Alliance Group of the following changes to the membership of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Replace Councillor K J Watts with Councillor D G Owen

Community Safety and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Replace Councillor B Jones with Councillor K J Watts

Community Renewal and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Replace Councillor B Jones with Councillor C A Green

RESOLVED: That the changes to the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees be noted.

116 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader also expressed his thanks to staff involved in or affected by the recent poor weather. He stated that the Chief Executive had already indicated that it was never an easy time for a local authority and residents become understandably concerned when their services are affected. He commented that the Council's teams work through difficult conditions to return services to normal and that many staff go the extra mile to ensure that the Council's most vulnerable residents are still supported. He understood that people continued to be concerned about their recycling and refuse collections and appreciated this had caused an inconvenience and he appealed to the public to recycle as much as possible and to ensure food was not put into black bags as this posed health risks.

The Leader announced that he was delighted to have attended the official opening of the Bryn y Cae Reablement Unit in Brackla last week. The Unit was designed to be a home from home facility and would help older people return to independence after a stay in hospital, which had already helped 87% of people staying there return to their own homes since the opening of the facility last year. He stated that this was another example of a successful joint initiative between the Council and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board and that anything which helped people coming out of hospital and supported them with daily living was good news. The facility demonstrated how committed the Council and its partners are to support its citizens when they need it most.

The Leader congratulated pupils, teachers, Governors and support and staff at Maesteg Comprehensive School on receiving an excellent rating from the Estyn inspectors. The Inspectors had found a number of strengths at the school, including significant examples of sector leading practice and also highlighted the good working relationships between pupils and staff, positive attitudes to learning and the school's success in ensuring that pupils receive the help they need in order to make progress. He stated that it demonstrated the great progress made at the school and was the first time that Estyn had inspected the school since it had moved into its new premises and was delighted that the inspectors had highlighted so many positive factors. He congratulated all those involved in the school on this achievement. Councillor Edwards as a LEA Governor of Mesteg Comprehensive School also commended all those involved with the school on the excellent rating from the Estyn inspection, despite the school being in one of the most deprived areas in Wales, where 27% of pupils in receipt of free school meals. He commented on the importance given to every child at the school and in the last academic year not one child had left the school without a qualification, which demonstrated the school as a modern and fit for purpose 21st century school.

117 APPOINTMENT PROCESS AND CHANGE OF ESTABLISHMENT

The Chief Executive sought approval to consult JNC officers on the proposal to replace the post of Assistant Chief Executive – Performance with the post of Corporate Director – Resources at no additional cost and subject to consultation to establish the process to make an appointment to that post and to the role of Section 151 Officer.

He reported that in February 2012 an interim secondment was made to the role of Assistant Chief Executive - Performance, with that post holder being also appointed as the Section 151 Officer. The post-holder's contract expired at the end of March 2013. He outlined the current breadth of responsibilities of the role and that since February 2012 the role had been remunerated at a level equivalent to the Corporate Director role grade. The Council had determined that the appointment/recruitment process of JNC Officers (other than the Chief Executive) is delegated to the Appointments Committee.

The Chief Executive reported that the Council faced significant financial changes, including a medium term savings requirement of £24m and as the current post holder's secondment was coming to an end and in order to avoid any loss of momentum, it was proposed that a permanent appointment be made as soon as possible. An agreement had been reached with the post holder and their employer to extend the current secondment until the end of May to allow the Council time to make an appropriate appointment. He sought to make a permanent appointment and considered it appropriate to delete the existing Chief Executive role and formally designate a new Corporate Director – Resources role to replace it. He stated that a formal consultation would be undertaken with the current permanent JNC employees and in the event of the proposals remaining unaltered he outlined the appointment process to be managed by the Council's HR team that would be followed.

RESOLVED: That Council:-

- (1) Accepted for consultation the deletion of the post of Assistant Chief Executive - Performance and replacement with the post of Corporate Director - Resources.
- (2) Agree to the process of consultation and appointment process for the post of Corporate Director - Resources.
- (3) Delegated to the Chief Executive authority to undertake the consultation and to report further to Council on its outcome.

118 APPOINTMENT TO THE APPRAISAL AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE PANEL

The Monitoring Officer reported on a proposal to appoint to a Panel responsible for the appraisal and performance review of the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED: That the following Members be appointed to the Panel responsible for the appraisal and performance review of the Chief Executive:-

- The Leader
- The Deputy Leader
- The Cabinet Member for Resources
- Councillor M Jones as a Labour Representative
- The Leader of the Independent Alliance Group
- The Leader of the Independent Annibynnwr Group

119 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

The Financial Assessments Manager reported on the abolition of the Council Tax Benefit on the 31 March 2013 and its replacement with the Council Tax Reduction Scheme from 1 April 2013, together with the funding implications and the requirement to adopt a scheme by 31 January 2013. She stated that Council Tax Benefits provide assistance for those on low incomes with a liability to pay Council Tax and in the County Borough there were currently 15,729 households receiving Council Tax Benefit, with

9,431 of those of working age and 6,298 of pensionable age. Out of the 15,729 households receiving Council Tax Benefit, approximately 11,800 were entitled to full benefit. The Government had devolved to the Welsh Government the establishment of localised schemes in Wales and stated the intention to reduce expenditure on Council Tax Benefit by 10%. During the design phase of the scheme and following consultation, the Welsh Ministers had confirmed that there would be a provision for a small number of discretionary elements in the new scheme, which individual councils can choose to adopt but any additional associated costs would have to be locally funded. The new scheme would be based on a reform of the current Council Tax Benefit system, at least in the first year, to ensure that the operational risks were managed and that support could continue to be provided after April 2013.

The Financial Assessments Manager reported that the Welsh Government had passed regulations that would implement new arrangements to support those who will pay council tax in 2013/14. Two main sets of regulations would govern the operation of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in Wales, namely the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2012 and Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (Wales) Regulations 2012 which set the maximum level of support that eligible claimants could receive at 90%, which reflected the shortfall in the transfer of funding from the Government. Where a local authority adopts its own scheme it would be governed by the Prescribed Requirements Regulations, regardless of whether it applied any of the discretionary elements. If the Council failed to make a scheme then a Default Scheme shall apply under the Provisions of the Default Scheme Regulations. The Council can only apply discretion if it makes its own scheme under the Prescribed Regulations.

The Financial Assessments Manager informed Council that on 17 January 2013, the Welsh Government had issued a statement to local authorities from the Minister of Local Government and Communities, advising that it had become increasingly concerned about the practical impact in the reduction in council tax support for claimants, particularly as the impact of other Government Welfare Reforms, such as the bedroom cap and the 1% cap on benefit increases, became clearer. The Welsh Government had therefore decided to increase the maximum levels support from the current 90% to 100% for 2013/14 only at this stage, which meant that claimants would receive the full amount of support for their Council Tax bills to which they were eligible. The Welsh Government would provide an additional £22m to local authorities to implement the change brought about by the Regulations, which would be distributed to councils in the form of a specific grant.

The Financial Assessments Manager informed the Council of the consultation process which had been undertaken on the Scheme which followed the national principles of public engagement in Wales, with the Council undertaking the consultation on the adoption of the Scheme. The consultation exercise had been applied by all Welsh councils based upon the best information available at the time with a maximum entitlement of 90%. The Welsh Government had issued its own consultation on Council Tax Reduction between February and April 2012 and the technical consultation carried out between September and October 2012 on the draft scheme regulations.

The Financial Assessments Manager outlined the Council's consultation methodology, whereby a letter was sent to all current Council Tax Benefit recipients to advise them about the consultation exercise and to make them aware of the changes to council tax support and to provide an opportunity to identify concerns or express their views and to prepare them for the additional amounts of council tax they would be required to pay from April 2013 (as was the case at the time). The consultation was advertised bi-lingually and respondents were able to submit electronic or paper responses in English or Welsh and a dedicated telephone number established. Councillors, Town and Community Councillors, the Police Authority, Citizens Advice Bureau and Bridgend Equalities Forum had been invited to comment on the consultation. A total of 131 responses were received, with 127 being completed on-line and 4 written responses received. The Financial Assessments Manager outlined the responses to the

consultation. She stated that the total estimated cost to the Council for the most supported options for 2013/14 would £38,816. It was recommended that:-

- The extended payment period is maintained at the minimum standard of 4 weeks, which was the current CTB extended payment award period and will mirror the extended payment period for Housing Benefit for 2013/14;
- War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions are fully disregarded when calculating entitlement to CTR, which maintained the existing provision in CTB and its' funding, in part, is already included in existing budgets;
- Backdating is extended beyond the minimum standard of 3 months, to a maximum of 6 months. The vast majority of CTB backdates are awarded for less than a 3 month period and the estimated additional expenditure to backdate up-to 6 months is relatively small (£6,750). In order to receive backdated benefit, the claimant has to provide 'good cause' as to why they did not claim at the appropriate time.

The total estimated cost to the Council for those recommendations is £32,650 for 2013/14.

The Financial Assessments Manager informed the Council that it was obliged to make a scheme under the requirements of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations, notwithstanding the fact that a default scheme would come into effect even if the Council failed to make a scheme. She stated that should the Council approve the recommended approach to the available discretions, there would be no additional monies available from the Welsh Government to fund these elements, with the cost of funding estimated to be £32,650 for 2013/14. The Welsh Government had made available the sum of £2.6m by way of support to help local authorities across Wales with the costs of introducing the scheme. The new scheme must be administered by local authorities within a fixed budget.

The Financial Assessments Manager reported on the adoption on the requirements for the Council to adopt a scheme by the 31 January 2013 and recommended that the scheme under the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2012, which includes all the elements which must be included in the scheme and with regard to the discretionary elements, included the recommendations set out. She set out the recommendations in relation to the available discretionary elements which took into account the following:-

- The consultation responses received, in particular those relating to the discretionary elements;
- The current local scheme in relation to the treatment of War Disablement Pensions, War Widows and War Widowers Pensions for Council Tax Benefit and Housing Benefit, which disregards these payments in full;
- The fixed funding available.

The Financial Assessments Manager reported that the replacement of Council Tax Benefit with the national reduction scheme will impact upon many low income residents including those in vulnerable groups. The Council had undertaken a consultation exercise in the limited time available and allowing for the fact that the full financial impact was not known at the time. The consultation had assisted the Council in satisfying the public sector equality duty in the Equality Act. The Welsh Government had compiled an equalities impact assessment following its consultation and a local equalities impact had been carried out by the Council.

The Financial Assessments Manager outlined the financial implications of the new scheme and based on existing levels of caseload the estimated cost of the Scheme was

between £12.734m to £12.858m, which compared to a forecasted scheme cost of £12.643m in the current year. The current Council Tax Benefit Scheme was almost wholly funded by the DWP together with additional subsidy received for the collection of overpayments. This will not be the case in relation to the new scheme with the 2013/14 Revenue Support Grant settlement containing a fixed sum provision. She stated that there were no additional monies available from the Welsh Government to fund the discretionary elements recommended and the cost of funding was estimated to be £32,650 for 2013/14, funded from existing budgets.

- RESOLVED:** (1) Noted the making of The Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2012, as amended, by the Welsh Assembly on 19 December 2012;
- (2) Noted the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken by the Council on the introduction of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme;
- (3) Adopted the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2012, detailed in paragraphs 4.31 to 4.36 of the report, as amended by the 2013 Regulations.

120 **DEPARTURE PLANNING APPLICATION - P/12/754/FUL**

The Group Manager Development reported that the Development Control Committee at its meeting on 13 December 2012 had considered planning application P/12/754/FUL as a departure from the Local Development Plan. The Development Control Committee resolved not to refuse permission and the application had been referred to Council requesting that it grant planning permission subject to conditions.

The Group Manager Development reported that the application was for the retention of a new access track to be completed in permanent materials (sub-base and tarmac mix) at Tynton Farm, Llangeinor. He stated that in the Design and Access Statement which accompanied the submission, the nature of the development was described as a full application to complete a new access track serving Tynton Farm and regrade the highway verge and provide a highway warning sign and carriageway markings on the adjoining Principal Route (A4061) to be undertaken by the Highway Authority. The advice of the Highway Authority had been sought on the application and it was agreed that the highway arrangements would be a safer means of access to Tynton Farmhouse and farmland than the narrower tortuous lane off the Llangeinor/Pontyrhyl main highway.

The Group Manager Development reported that whilst the application did not comply with national and local planning policies aimed at protecting the countryside, the development can be recommended for approval as a development that provides benefits to highway safety on two major routes (A4064 and A4093) and can be considered to facilitate the renovation, refurbishment and secure the maintenance of a Grade 2 listed building. It also did not adversely impact on the visual amenities of the immediate locality or the wider surrounding areas as to warrant refusal of the development.

- RESOLVED:** That Council approved planning application P/12/754/FUL subject to the conditions contained in the report of the Corporate Director – Communities.

121 **DEPARTURE PLANNING APPLICATION - P/11/881/OUT**

The Group Manager Development reported that the Development Control Committee at its meeting on 13 December 2012 had considered planning application P/11/881/OUT as a departure from the Local Development Plan. The Development Control Committee resolved not to refuse permission and the application had been referred to Council requesting the grant of planning permission subject to conditions and the applicant entering into a Section 106 Planning Obligation.

The Group Manager Development reported that the application was for an outline planning consent for a development of 14 residential units on the site of the former Parc Farm house and associated buildings Coety. He stated that whilst the proposed development did not accord with the adopted Bridgend Unitary Development Plan, the policies of the emerging Local Development Plan in which the site was proposed for residential use were material considerations in the assessment of this application. The scale of the development would not prejudice other policies in the Local Development Plan nor would the use of this brown field site have a significant impact on the settlement of Bridgend. The development proposed the re-use of previously developed land that could be integrated into the larger Parc Derwen development with its associated facilities and amenities. It also had the potential to deliver high quality design through a mix of new and existing buildings. Securing links to the adjoining development through the grant of planning permission would also ensure that the need to travel especially by private car would be minimised. These were compelling material considerations that outweighed the current development plan in this instance. Furthermore, the proposal would not adversely affect the residential and visual amenities of the area.

- RESOLVED: (1) That the Council approved planning application P/11/881/OUT subject to the applicant entering into a Section 106 Agreement subject to the conditions contained in the report of the Corporate Director - Communities.
- (2) The Corporate Director - Communities be authorised to issue a Decision Notice once the aforementioned Section 106 Agreement had been concluded and subject to the conditions contained in the report of the Corporate Director - Communities.

122 ANNUAL REVIEW OF DELEGATED POWER ARRANGEMENTS FOR DETERMINING PLANNING MATTERS

The Group Manager Development reported that the Development Control Committee at its meeting on 13 December 2012 had reviewed the system of Delegated Power arrangements for certain planning matters and recommended that the matter be reported to Council following that review.

The Group Manager Development reported that Council at its meeting on the 16 November 2011 resolved that a further report be presented to the Development Control Committee and Council on the workings of the Delegated Power arrangements, 12 months after the 2011 changes had been implemented. Since then no issues had been identified by Members and Officers that require further consideration.

He stated that 99 applications were reported to the Development Control Committee during 2011/12, which equated to approximately 10% of all applications received by the Development Department that year, with 35 of the applications reported to Committee determined outside the Government target of eight weeks because of the additional time necessary to report those applications to Committee. He outlined the reasons for the reporting of the 99 applications to Committee during 2011/12. He stated that reporting planning applications to Committee incurs a significantly cost to the Authority than if applications were determined under delegated powers and the process delays their determination, which is an impediment to the development industry. However, the Committee was satisfied that the Authority had delegated power arrangements in place to help facilitate the determination of applications in a timely manner but with the more contentious applications considered by Committee and that no further amendments were necessary at this time.

- RESOLVED: That Council accept the recommendations of the Development Control Committee that no further amendments were required to

the delegated power arrangements for planning applications at this time.

123 BRIDGEND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) EXAMINATION INSPECTOR'S PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

The Group Manager Development reported on an update on the LDP Examination, informing Members of the Examination Inspector's Preliminary Findings on housing and employment land need and supply and sought agreement of an appropriate way forward in terms of site allocations. He stated the hearing sessions of the Examination of the LDP commenced on 20 November 2012 and that initial sessions examined the LDP Strategy together with the Council's calculations for projected future housing needs and the number of dwellings allocated on sites to meet that need. Employment land need and supply were also discussed, together with discussions on the deliverability of certain sites within the timeframe of the Plan (up to 2021) and the mix of uses within sites.

He reported that the Inspector had concluded that even though the submitted evidence supported a modest reduction in the amount of dwelling provision by comparison with the most recent available Welsh Government household projections, it did not adequately support the Plan's assessed level of housing need. The Inspector had also considered that the LDPs current estimate of housing supply was over optimistic in respect of the rate of delivery of the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration site during the Plan period. The Plan was therefore at risk of being unsound unless additional housing provision was made for 765 additional dwellings. The Inspector was of the opinion that such new provision could be made without departing from the Plan's current strategy (by using sites that accord with that strategy and have already been subject to sustainability appraisal and appropriate consultation) and there was an opportunity to modify the submitted Plan to remedy the situation. The Inspector considered that this should not entail the withdrawal of the Plan or cause significant delay to the Examination.

The Group Manager Development reported that the Inspector had considered that the amount of employment land allocated in the submitted Plan exceeded that which is likely to be developed within the Plan period and had considered it acceptable that it provided flexibility and choice for prospective developers and occupiers to benefit from opportunities to secure economic growth and because many of the sites would be unsuitable for other uses. The Inspector considered that the over provision of employment land against short and medium term needs did provide an opportunity for some employment land allocation to be diverted to meet the additional housing need. The Inspector had invited the Council to propose sites that it would prefer to be included in the Plan's allocation to meet the required additional provision of 765 dwellings. This may include the amendment of existing Plan allocations or the identification of other provision from amongst the submitted alternative sites. There would be an opportunity for representations to be made at a hearing before any alternative sites were added to the Plan.

The Group Manager Development reported that a search of sites to accommodate additional residential development had been undertaken prior to them being presented to the Inspector, which involved the examination of the Policy PLA3 'Mixed Use Regeneration Site' which would allocate land for a number of uses including housing and employment. In undertaking this review of mixed use sites site allocations in the submitted LDP, the following sites had been identified for change:-

Policy	Site Name	Residential Change
PLA3 (1)	Parc Derwen, Bridgend	+ 15 dwellings
PLA3 (2)	North East Brackla	+ 200 dwellings
PLA3 (4)	Parc Afon Ewenni	+ 100 dwellings
PLA3 (10)	Land West of Maesteg Road, Tondu	+ 102 dwellings
PLA3 (20)	Coronation Works, Evanstown	+ 11 dwellings

TOTAL = 428 dwellings

The Group Manger Development reported that a search of the most appropriate alternative sites had been undertaken to establish those which could make a positive contribution to the Plan’s housing supply whilst still contributing to the delivery of the overall strategy, with the following alternative sites being identified for inclusion within the Plan.

AS No.	Site Name	Residential Supply
AS052	Land at Waterton Lane, Bridgend	+ 42 dwellings
AS056	Enlarge area at S Wales Police HQ	+ 8 dwellings
AS060	Enlarge Y Parc, Maesteg allocation	+ 31dwellings
AS027	Ty Draw Farm, North Cornelly	+ 94 dwellings
AS032	Land at Llangewydd Road, Cefn Glas	+ 228 dwellings

TOTAL = 403 dwellings

The Group Manager reported that the proposed LDP site allocations had been increased by 428 dwellings plus 403 dwellings = 831 dwellings. The difference between the 765 identified by the Inspector and this figure represented an element of additional flexibility in the planned figures.

He reported that should the Council approve the suggested changes to the LDP, these will be presented to the Examination Inspector as the Council’s response to his preliminary findings and those persons had originally objected to the alternative sites would be notified that the Council’s position had changed. They would be invited to attend a hearing session concerning those sites should they wish to present their position to the Inspector in person or in writing. As the alternative sites had already been consulted upon, there would no need for a further period of public consultation.

RESOLVED: That the Council:-

- (1) Noted the LDP Examination Inspector’s Preliminary Findings.
- (2) Considered the additional sites proposed and approved their inclusion in the Local Development Plan as proposed changes.
- (3) Authorised the Corporate Director Communities to submit the revised sites and their justification to the LDP Examination Inspector.
- (4) Authorised the Corporate Director Communities to recommend any consequential changes to the LDP Examination Inspector as a result of the addition of the sites proposed
- (5) Authorised the Corporate Director Communities to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) on the proposed site changes and, subject to the conclusion that there would not be significant adverse impacts, to submit the revised reports to the LDP Examination Inspector as soon as practicably possible

124 **QUARTERLY DEBATE - AGEING WELL IN BRIDGEND**

The Corporate Director – Wellbeing presented an opening submission in order to facilitate the debate on Ageing Well in Bridgend, whereby people were living longer and the Council needed to adapt its services to meet changing demands, with medical

advances and rising standards of living meant that more people reach old age and new treatments being available.

The Corporate Director – Wellbeing stated that population projections produced by Public Health Wales Observatory showed the percentage aged 65 in the County Borough rising from 25,900 (19% of the total population) in 2012 to 39,600 (26% of the total population) in 2033. These changes create challenges for services throughout the Council and in a period of decreasing budgets would mean that the traditional delivery models, particularly for older peoples' services could not be sustained. Life expectancy for men in Bridgend was projected to rise from 76.4 years in 2004 to 80.3 years in 2024 and for women the rise was projected to be from 80.7 years to 84.0 years over the same period. As well as changes to the demographic make-up of the County, the nature of old age itself was changing, with pension ages rising and people often being more active at 65 than in previous generations, take-up of digital services by the over 65's is growing and people's expectations and aspirations being very different than in previous decades. He stated that a key challenge across Bridgend was social inequality, in that whilst many people can expect to reach the age of 65 fit and well, in other wards people do not fare so well.

The Corporate Director – Wellbeing informed Council that as the proportion of older people arose, the relative proportion of the Bridgend population under 16 were reduced. He outlined the impact of an aging population on community services and the extent to which families, friends and neighbours support each other which would have a huge impact on the quality of life in communities. He stated that the Communities and Wellbeing Directorates were working together on a whole service housing strategy and the Communities First programme planned to support people to enhance their wellbeing and strengthen community networks. Community cafes and befriending schemes were promoted and the Council provided funds for emergency repairs and for home safety and security to enable people to remain at home through the Private Sector Renewal and Disabled Adaptations Policy. In respect of Wellbeing Services, healthy living programmes such as smoking cessation, weight reduction and taking part in physical activities were promoted to help people stay fit and well into old age. As the number of older people in Bridgend rose, it was likely that there would be an increase in the prevalence in the chronic conditions which are strongly age related, and falls amongst older people were a major concern, leading to increased hospital admissions and social care interventions. The Council had already made significant shifts in the provision of services with more emphasis on independence and choice, moving from a model of welfare and dependence to one of wellbeing and signposting. The NHS also faced similar challenges in the rising demand for older people's services and is actively working to strengthen community health systems. The Older People's Commissioner and the WLGA had launched an 'Ageing Well in Wales' programme to support and champion positive changes to attitudes of an ageing society.

The Corporate Director - Wellbeing informed Council that changes to population demographics was set against a background of the Council having to save £24m over the next four years with demographic pressures of £15m by 2033, resulting in £40m of pressures elsewhere or service reforms being required. He stated that staying healthy was a key part of the leisure service outcome framework; integrating community care and NHS community health services to enhance provision and reduce duplication. There were also examples of partnership working such as Care and Repair's Helping Hands Service, Community Café and befriending service and the British Red Cross 'Gofal y Ddolen' Brokerage Scheme. The Council was making adult social service programmes more focussed on enabling people to support themselves and to change the types of packages of care. There was also an increase in the use of telecare which is now in over 1200 homes and proposals were being developed to increase extra care provision and change the balance between residential care and homecare.

Members questioned whether there was any evidence given that people were ageing well that they required less care than had previously been the case. The Corporate Director – Wellbeing stated that there was some evidence as to the point at which

people get sick and unwell which varied and believed that the Healthy Living Programme such as smoking cessation and weight reduction played a key role in helping people stay fit and well into old age. Members considered that key to keeping people being active longer was through educating and the promotion of healthy living programmes, Members requested copies of the Corporate Director – Wellbeing's presentation slides.

Members considered the need to plan for the future now in order that the type of accommodation available was fit for purpose in the future.

Members highlighted the good work of the obesity unit in the Garw Valley Leisure Centre. Members considered that the challenge for the Council was to deliver services differently and through the Council's partners. The Council also recognised the significant challenges posed by welfare reform and discussions had been held with Valleys 2 Coast with a need to provide of smaller units of accommodation.

Members also highlighted the need to promote the Council's parks and greens and green spaces and the need to have an integrated green space strategy.

Members also referred to issues such as isolation and loneliness being experienced by an ageing population and that BAVO had introduced community cafés and befriending service, which were well used.

Members thanked the Corporate Director for facilitating the debate on ageing well in Bridgend.

The meeting closed at 4.49pm.